City of Columbus – Bartholomew County Planning Department

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MEETING NOTES

TOPIC: Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Implementation Meeting

DATE: November 28, 2012

NOTES BY: Rae-Leigh Stark

PRESENT: Jeff Bergman, Planning Department

April Williams, Parks Department Laura Garrett, Healthy Communities Dave Hayward, City Engineer's Office Kelli Thompson, Healthy Communities Rae-Leigh Stark, Planning Department Jeff Fetterer, Bike Ped. Committee

Laurence Brown, CAMPO

Laura and Rae-Leigh presented a proposal for the reorganization of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, the Safe Routes to School Committee, and creating a new committee focused on active transportation outreach. The proposal is to transfer all Safe Routes to School infrastructure projects within the right-of-way to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Implementation Committee. The Safe Routes to School Committee could then focus on school-based infrastructure, outreach, and education projects. The new Active Transportation Outreach Committee would focus on getting people on bikes to use the infrastructure that is being built or motivating people to ride the bus.

One goal of the reorganization is to get more community members on the committees and the right people on each of the committees. Hopefully it will also reduce the number of meetings the same people are going to (less time in meetings and more productivity).

Jeff B. stated that we should include a representative from Community Development. Kelli stated that we should include a representative rom the Columbus Young Professionals. Dave stated that we should include a representative from the disabled community.

Jeff B. questioned the number of meetings we're adding per year. The goal is to reduce, but it looks like it is adding meetings.

We then had a discussion about how often the Bicycle and Pedestrian Implementation Committee would like to meet. Should we continue meeting quarterly or should we meet more often. Jeff F. stated that we should continue meeting quarterly unless something comes up and we want to meet more often than that.

Laurence would like to create a Transportation Safety Committee (TSC) that would work toward creating the safest, inclusive transportation system. The goal is that the 1) the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee, 2) Safe Routes to School Committee, 3) Active Transportation Outreach Committee, and 4) the Transit Advisory Committee will act as the four subcommittees to this TSC.

Laura started the conversation about collecting bicycle and pedestrian data in the community. She stated the one important piece of bicycle and pedestrian planning that is missing is having the data. She also stated, once we have the data (surveys, bike and pedestrian traffic counts) who will be the holders of this

data. Is it this committee or would it be the Active Transportation Outreach Committee. No decision was made on that topic. Rae-Leigh stated that the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project is a good program to collect bicycle and pedestrian counts.

Laurence informed the group that he has sent out a Request for Proposals for a three part project he would like completed. 1) Revisions to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to add facilities (Sharrows, cycletracks, and bike boulevards), 2) A study that would look at the one-way streets in town and convert them back to two-way streets, and 3) Take the data from Laura's Safe Routes to School sidewalk and ramp inventory and create it into a GIS layer. Laurence stated that the plan should start in January and end in June or July. The revisions to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan will have to go to City Council.

We looked through the list of projects from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. They were labeled as projects that have been finished and projects that are in the planning stages. We also looked at two projects in particular that have been put on hold, Taylor Road and Westenedge Drive.

Dave stated that he has an idea for Westenedge Drive that could make the neighbors happy and get the road improvements complete. He proposed that we just install an 8 foot sidepath on the east side of the road from National Road to Parkside Drive. Jeff B. stated that has never been our practice before. We always require sidewalk on both sides of the street. Laura stated that thoughts may have changed on that street and people would be more open to the original proposal (bike lanes and sidewalks) and the street has too many driveways, it may be too dangerous for a sidepath. Jeff F. stated that Westenedge Drive needs bike lanes. Kelli stated that we have to something.

Dave stated that he would like to have another meeting to gather input on Taylor Road reconstruction from 25th Street to Rocky Ford Road. He feels that what was proposed originally is much to big for the traffic on Taylor Road. The plans include sidewalks, bike lanes, and 2 traffic lanes. Originally the residents in the apartments near 25th Street were concerned that the bike lanes would remove any onstreet parking they had. We discussed the idea of having bike lanes, but that if/when they need on-street parking, they could park on the bike lanes.

We went through the following projects and connections that we've heard a lot of interest in:

- Griffa Avenue connection to the Hawcreek Trail: Dave stated that he has quotes on the project and may be able to get it done with 2012 end of the year money.
- Terrace Lake Road sidewalk connection from C.R. 200 South to Terrace Woods: Dave stated that he may be able to do this with 2013 end of the year money.
- 19th Street connection to the Haw Creek Trail: We need an update from Ben.
- Intersection Improvements at Carr Hill Road and Morgan Willow Trace: Jeff B. stated that he heard many comments about the dangers of this intersection.
- Sidewalk connections on Marr Road: There is a lot of multi-family developments on Marr Road in the southeast part of the city. There's a need for bicycle and pedestrian connections to 10th Street. There are a couple People Trail Campaign projects that may address this need.

The group will meet again in February, 2013.